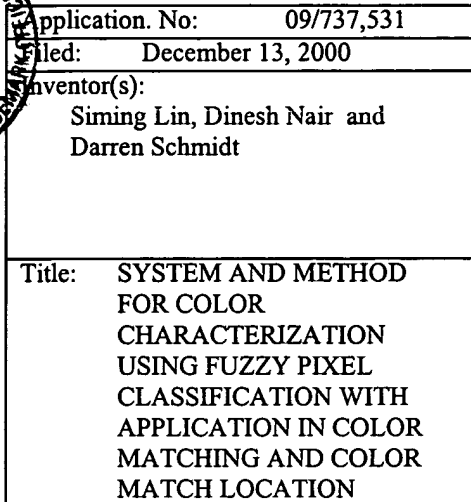


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

Applicant respectfully petitions under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) for a priority claim to be accepted for the present application to claim priority as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/375,453, titled “System and Method for Color Characterization with Applications in Color Measurement and Color Matching”, filed August 17, 1999, whose inventors were Siming Lin and Dinesh Nair.

The priority claim was inadvertently omitted from the present application, and the entire delay between the time the claim was due under 37 CFR §1.78(a)(2) and the present time was unintentional. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the surcharge

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set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(t) to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit  
Account No. 50-1505/5150-46400/JCH.

Respectfully submitted,



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Jeffrey C. Hood  
Reg. No. 35,198  
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC  
P.O. Box 398  
Austin, TX 78767-0398  
Phone: (512) 853-8800  
Date: 4/18/2004